witness an exponential growth in the Food Technology business, that will even overtake information technology and biotechnology;

(b) if so, whether the challenge in the future would be to meet the existing standards that Europe and other developed countries will impose on imported food items from the developing world; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (c) As per a recent study, about 300 food testing laboratories are functioning in Public and Private sector in the country. Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance for setting up/up-gradation of food testing laboratories. It has approved financial assistance to 36 organizations so far, under its Plan Scheme. These laboratory facilities can be availed by consumers, food processing units and other stakeholders for the purposes of food testing. Further, these laboratory facilities have been created keeping in view an exponential growth in the food technology business and for ensuring compliance with existing and future standards of processed food items for domestic as well as export purposes. Government has recently enacted Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which provides thrust on ensuring quality of food products. Accodingly, Ministry of Food Processing Industries is considering to provide financial assistance for setting up/upgradation of about 100 laboratories at national, state and district levels, during the eleventh five years plan.

Institute of Biotechnology

2830. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Director of Institute of Biotechnology, Cambridge University, India has the best biotechnology study at the PG level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether his Ministry is planning to make our institutes of biotechnology like the Institute of Biotechnology of Cambridge which is earning 3.5 million pounds a year?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Director of Institute of Biotechnology, University of Cambridge, U.K., only said that pursuing Biotechnology is the best option at the post graduate level and that too by those who have fundamental knowledge in physics, chemistry, biology or bio-chemistry.

(c) The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology has also focused on producing high quality postgraduates by supporting M.Sc/M.Tech. teaching programmes with idea of interfacing and moving towards knowledge based industry as in the case of Cambridge Institute.

Innovations and Research Technology

2831. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new innovations and research technology invented by scientist could not reach the grass root level, particularly in rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken by his Ministry for adopting them for developing rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The government has been proactively engaged in developing, adopting and disseminating people friendly technologies for rural areas with the involvement of NGOs, academic institutions, local bodies and community. Various government departments and agencies such as Department of Science & Technology, Depatment of Biotechnology, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, CAPART, have taken many initiatives for developing rural areas. Women Technology Parks (WTP), Rural Technology Parks (RTP), Rural Technology Centres (RTC) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) have been set up in rural areas for developing and disseminating location specific science and technology based solutions to local problems. Innovative projects involving development